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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

Attachment 2

Melos Tiempos, Cochabamba, Tuesday 29 November 1949

SINCE MIDNIGHT YESTERDAY 499 POLITICAL PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

The political prisoners who are being held in the penitentiary of La Paz have sent the following memorandum to various national authorities:

"National Penitentiary, 27 November 1949

"To: His Excellency the Constitutional President of the Republic
His Illustrious Seigniorship the Papal Nuncio and Dean of the
Diplomatic Corps
Honorable National Representatives and directors of the local
Press and Radio
The Governor of the National Penitentiary
Leaders of Labor Unions:

"Sirs:

We take the liberty of calling to your attention the fact that the political prisoners in the National Penitentiary, considering their present situation and that of their families to be intolerable, in view of the fact that, in three months, administrative and juridical authorities of the nation have not observed the fundamental standards of judicial procedure nor those of human rights, find themselves illegally or unjustly detained, without knowing the reason or reasons for their imprisonment, or if the order for their detention was issued by competent authorities. As an extreme recourse, the only one available to those unjustly imprisoned when the juridical regime of a people has been destroyed, and sure of the justice of their cause, these prisoners have resolved to declare themselves on hunger strike, as of 0000 hours, 28 November 1949, until the constituted authorities shall concede to their demands, or to die in the attempt to so obtain them.

(Demands):

- "(1) Immediate action on petitions for release.
- "(2) Strict observance of procedural methods and the law substantive of trials.
- "(3) Restoration of individual rights and guarantees, and of the basic standards of human treatment.

"Information is submitted that, according to the list in the possession of Mayor Luis Ramos Arce, there are 499 political prisoners now being held in the National Penitentiary, not including those held in other prisons in the city or in the interior of the country.

"We would be very grateful if you would note the contents of this communication for the ends therein described.

"Strike Committee:

Agusto Cuadros Sanchez
Don Esteban
Eugenio Huojosa
Rafael de Chavez
Levino Quintas"

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